Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure

Plan for 2013-14

Government of Saskatchewan

PLAN FOR 2013-14

Statement from the Minister

As Minister of Highways and Infrastructure, it is my pleasure to present our Plan for 2013-14.

The Government's Direction and Budget for 2013-14 reflects the principles, goals and actions of the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth. This Plan is designed to capture the opportunities and meet the challenges of a growing province.

The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure (MHI) is investing in the infrastructure required for growth and responding to the infrastructure deficit that currently exists. A safe and seamless transportation network is the foundation of current and future growth and can help boost the quality of life for Saskatchewan people. Multi-year improvements to the provincial highway network provide for the increased development, exports, and competitiveness that support a growing Saskatchewan. With a budget of $576.0 million, the Ministry will assist in capturing the opportunities for growth while maintaining the four-year commitment of investing $2.2 billion in Highways and Infrastructure.

The Ministry will report on progress made toward this plan, within the financial parameters provided, in the 2013-14 Annual Report.

The Honourable Don McMorris
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure

Response to Government Direction

The government remains committed to further establishing Saskatchewan as the best place to live, work and raise a family.

The Saskatchewan Plan for Growth – Vision 2020 and Beyond identifies principles, goals and actions to ensure Saskatchewan continues to benefit from the opportunities and meet the challenges of a growing province. Keeping government's focus on *Balanced Growth*, the plan outlines the key activities that the Government of Saskatchewan will undertake in pursuit of sustained, disciplined growth and a better Saskatchewan.

Government's Vision

"...a strong and growing Saskatchewan, the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Improving our quality of life	Making life more affordable	Delivering responsive and responsible government

Government's vision and four goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and third parties to focus on achieving greater success in the delivery of government services. *The Saskatchewan Plan for Growth – Vision 2020 and Beyond* provides the enabling strategies and actions that the Government of Saskatchewan will undertake to build a strong and growing Saskatchewan. The 2013-14 budget theme of *Balanced Growth* reflects the government's commitment to achieving the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress and results achieved in their 2013-14 annual reports. This honours government's commitment to keep its promises and ensures greater transparency and accountability to the people of Saskatchewan.

Mission, Strategies and Actions

Mission Statement

The mission of the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure is to optimize the role of transportation as it relates to the economic and social development of Saskatchewan.

OBJECTIVE:
Address the infrastructure deficit from the past.

Strategy

Ensure consistent and reliable service through a safe and secure transportation network.

Key Actions

- Improve the road condition of the transportation network.
  - Repave 280 km on Saskatchewan's highways.
  - Replace 27 bridges on Saskatchewan's highways including eight bridges that will be replaced with culverts.
  - Make major repairs on six bridges.
  - Improve 348 km of highways through surface preservation treatments.
- Replace or repair aging culvert and wood box drainage structures.
- Invest $25.5 million through the Municipal Roads for the Economy Program (MREP) - a partnership agreement with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) - for municipal road upgrades.
- Support community airports through the Community Airport Partnership Program, which results in a $1.4 million investment for improvements to small airports.
- Repair provincial ferries to ensure municipal road links are available.
- Invest $50.7 million in the North to improve and maintain infrastructure.
- Invest $5.0 million through the Safety Improvement Program for safety warranted projects.
- Preserve and upgrade weigh scales throughout the province, in order to deliver a Transport Compliance program that enforces regulations to keep unsafe or overweight vehicles from damaging provincial infrastructure.
- Work with rural municipalities to provide alternate truck routes on municipal roads through Strategic Partnership Program agreements, to preserve weaker thin membrane surface highways.
- Continue to participate in "Road Check" and "Operation Air Brake" annual international safety inspection events and plan strategic enforcement activities to reduce commercial vehicle safety violations.

Photo Credit: Enterprise Saskatchewan, Greg Huszar Photography, Mosaic Belle Plaine site

OBJECTIVE:
Address the current challenges of population and economic growth.

Strategy

Support an efficient transportation network that connects Saskatchewan people and goods to the provincial, national and global markets.

Key Actions

- Construct bypasses to improve traffic flow.
  - Continue to build the West Regina Bypass between Highway 1 and Highway 11.
- Complete twinning on Highway 11 between Saskatoon and the junction of Highway 2.
- Upgrade highways to create primary weight corridors:
  - Complete construction on 75 km of rural provincial highways; and,
  - Continue construction of the St. Louis Bridge on Highway 2.
- Construct passing lanes to increase safety and enable smoother traffic flow.
  - The Ministry will begin the construction of passing lanes on Highway 10 between Balgonie and Fort Qu'Appelle.
- Invest in urban highway projects to improve efficiency on provincial highways through major urban centres.
  - Provide capital funding for:
    - Saskatoon to invest in the Highway 7 and 14 interchange; and,
    - Lloydminster to invest in the rehabilitation of Highway 16.
- Work within the New West Partnership (NWP) and the Manitoba/Saskatchewan Memorandum of Understanding to harmonize trucking regulations and continue to remove red tape.

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatoon, Broadway Bridge

OBJECTIVE:
Prepare for future growth.

Strategy

Invest in transportation enhancements to improve efficiencies for future needs.

Key Actions

- Work with Saskbuilds to explore delivery options and timing for the construction of a South East Regina Bypass.
- Begin construction of the Highway 39 Estevan Bypass.
- Develop a high clearance corridor to meet future demands by continuing multi-year improvements to Highway 15 between Kenaston and Simpson.
- Support access to and exports from Northern Saskatchewan through partnering with the uranium industry to construct 52 km of Highway 914. This will create an alternative re-supply route to the current Highway 905 corridor and serve both the uranium industry and other northern community interests in the Athabasca Basin.
- Work with Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) to:
  - Ensure MHI's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capabilities are compatible with SGI permitting activities to integrate mapping with Saskatchewan's on-line permitting system by 2015; and,
  - Collaborate for the development of single-window permitting across the western provinces by 2020.
- Continue to improve the accessibility and quality of information for travellers through the Highway Hotline road information service.
- Increase the number of cameras for public viewing of road conditions by erecting cameras at (but not limited to) major construction project sites such as St. Louis Bridge, Highway 11 at McDowell, and Highway 10 between Balgonie and Fort Qu'Appelle. The Ministry aims to add numerous cameras throughout the province to assist travellers.

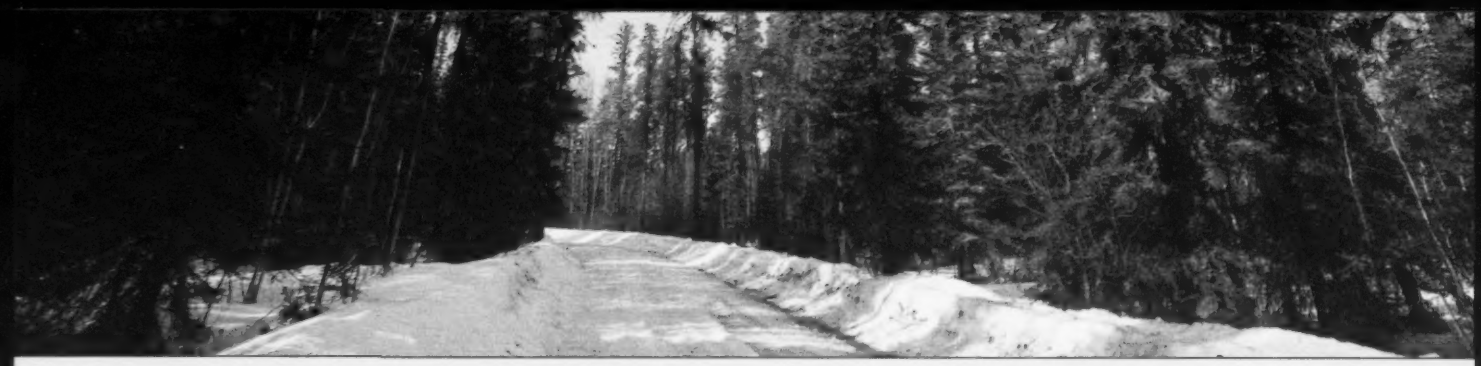


Photo Credit: Courtesy of Enterprise Saskatchewan, La Ronge, Saskatchewan

OBJECTIVE:
To deliver responsive and responsible government.

Strategy

Provide value through continued investment in organizational best practices.

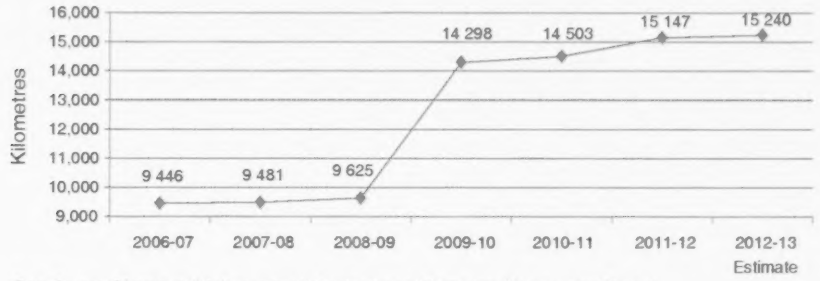
Key Actions

- Work with the Federal Government to help shape the next round of federal infrastructure programs to maximize investment in Saskatchewan's infrastructure.
- Make improvements in the delivery of programs and services through the adoption of methodologies such as LEAN.
- Continue the multi-year program review process to ensure programs and services provided by the Ministry are delivered as efficiently and effectively as possible and are aligned to government priorities.
- Deliver Occupational Health and Safety training programs, site inspections and workplace audits to continue the Ministry's path towards Mission Zero.
- Reinforce safe driving practices and "mini blizzard" awareness for both public and worker safety around snowplows through the delivery of the annual Snow Zone campaign.
- Continue to evaluate and conduct information campaigns to educate the public about safe driving in work zones. These campaigns are designed to increase and reinforce the motoring public's:
  - understanding of laws;
  - increased driver compliance;
  - reduced driver frustration; and,
  - contractor adherence to the rules.
- Maintain and update road network information to provide current highway inventory maps for use at all jurisdictional levels. This is vital for emergency response capabilities, proper route choice for primary weight hauling, and efficient travel routes for locals and tourists.

Performance Measures

Measure

Cumulative kilometres on the provincial highway system accommodating Primary Weight Truck Haul.



Data Source: Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure - Information Management Branch

Measure Description

- This is a measure of the Ministry's progress towards increasing primary weight highways. It aligns with the Ministry's strategy to support an efficient transportation network that connects Saskatchewan people and goods to the global market.
- The trucking industry and almost all sectors of the economy require primary weight access to provide efficient routes to maximize their investments. This in turn provides a benefit to Saskatchewan by increasing investment potential and profits for local industry.
- Primary weight is a measure of weight per axle and total weight of a truck as determined by a truck's configuration. The ability to haul at primary weights can increase trucking efficiency by 15 per cent to 45 per cent, depending on truck configuration.
- Currently, there are an estimated 15,240 km of primary weight authorized highways in the province. Some are available year round, some are categorized as nine-month primary weight and others require a special permit for primary weight usage.
- The total of primary weight categorized highways is collected in the Ministry's Highway Information System database. This figure is subject to change throughout the year depending on construction and maintenance activities, bridge capacity issues, localized flooding, review of the allowable capacity on a highway segment or other issues.
- Risks to achieving further primary weight access include construction delays, contractor staging and redirection of resources in emergency situations related to weather.
- Find a link to the Weight Classification map and others at: http://www.highways.gov.sk.ca/sask-maps/

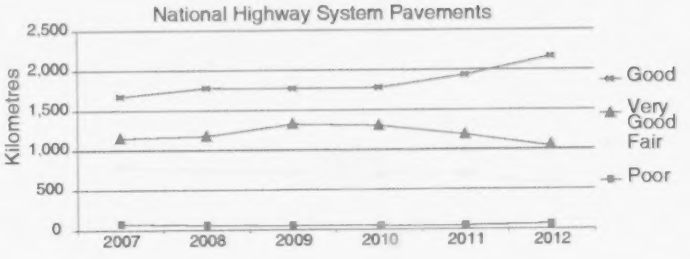
Photo Credit: Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, Hans-Gerhard Pfaff, Victoria Park, Downtown Regina

Measure

Pavement Condition Report Card: rating of paved highway networks.

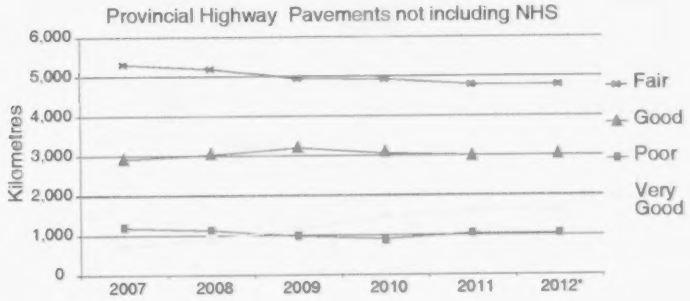
National Highway System Pavements

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Very Good	31%	31%	34%	34%	31%	27%
Good	45%	47%	46%	47%	50%	57%
Fair	21%	20%	18%	18%	18%	15%
Poor	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%



Provincial Highway Pavements not including NHS

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012*
Very Good	7%	9%	11%	14%	15%	15%
Good	29%	30%	31%	29%	29%	29%
Fair	52%	51%	48%	48%	46%	46%
Poor	12%	11%	9%	9%	10%	10%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%



Data source: Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure - Technical Standards Branch
**2012 information was not collected for all roads, thus 2011 information is being used. This information will be collected and used for 2013.*

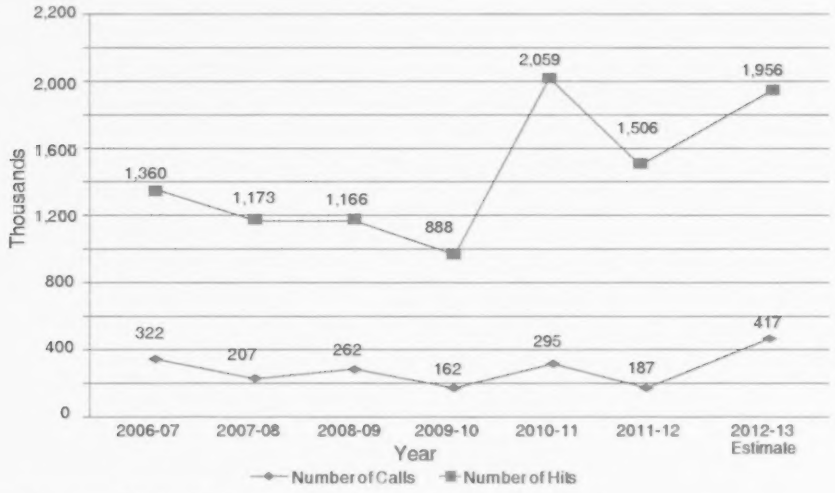
Measure Description

- These measures align with the Ministry's strategy to ensure consistent and reliable service through a safe and secure transportation network.
- They are significant to the Ministry as they show the results of an effective maintenance and repaving program. Properly maintained highways enhance public safety and ensure the transportation system supports a fully-functioning economy.
- The Ministry is responsible for managing the highway network responsibly within available resources, with a focus on safety and efficiency. There are 14,752 km of paved highways in Saskatchewan, including the National Highway System (NHS) highways.
- The NHS is the backbone of Saskatchewan's road network. This system is critical to the province's economic prosperity. The NHS includes Highway 1, 11, 16, and sections of 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, and 39.
- The Ministry uses measures that incorporate vibration, noise, bumps and dips in the road to measure its condition. This information determines when repaving or other pavement preservation treatments are needed.
- To maximize the benefit of the massive investment in preserving highways, it is critical for the Ministry to focus on keeping good highways in good condition for as long as possible.
- Balancing competing demands on the highway network for the allocation of scarce resources is a major challenge facing the Ministry. The Ministry manages risks like contractor progress, fluctuating input costs and the length of the construction season, which are outside the Ministry's control, but influence the results of this measure.
- Find a link to the National Highway System map and others at: http://www.highways.gov.sk.ca/sask-maps/

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan, Greg Huszar Photography, Over the Hill Orchards

Measure

Calls and hits to the Highway Hotline.



Data source: Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure - Communications Branch

Measure Description

- In connection to the Ministry's strategy to invest in transportation enhancements to improve efficiencies for future needs, the Ministry continues to increase the services provided by the Highway Hotline.
- The Highway Hotline assists motorists in making informed travel decisions which should result in safer travel with fewer accidents and lower injury rates.
- The Highway Hotline provides road condition information that was originally provided through a telephone service, but has expanded to include services such as:
  - online road condition maps;
  - text reports;
  - mobile website;
  - Facebook page;
  - Twitter feeds; and,
  - online links to other jurisdictions' maps and services.
- The Highway Hotline gives information on both summer and winter highway driving conditions in addition to the status of ferry operations in the summer.
- This measure is subject to the amount and severity of extreme weather events in the province, with more website hits and calls occurring during storms.
- To visit the Highway Hotline website please go to: www.highways.gov.sk.ca/road-conditions/

Financial Summary

2013-14 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Highways and Infrastructure (Vote 16)	
Central Management and Services	22,405
Strategic Municipal Infrastructure	35,976
Operation of Transportation System	86,144
Preservation of Transportation System	141,692
Transportation Planning and Policy	3,270
Custom Work Activity	
Machinery and Equipment	5,750
Total Appropriation (Vote 16)	**295,237**
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(10,022)
Capital Asset Amortization	138,121
Total Expense (Vote 16)	**423,336**
Highways and Infrastructure Capital (Vote 17)	
Infrastructure Rehabilitation	**91,700**
Infrastructure Enhancement	**189,110**
Total Appropriation (Vote 17)	**280,810**
Total Highways and Infrastructure	**576,047**
FTE Staff Complement	**1,372.8**

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: http://www.finance.gov.sk.ca/budget2013-14

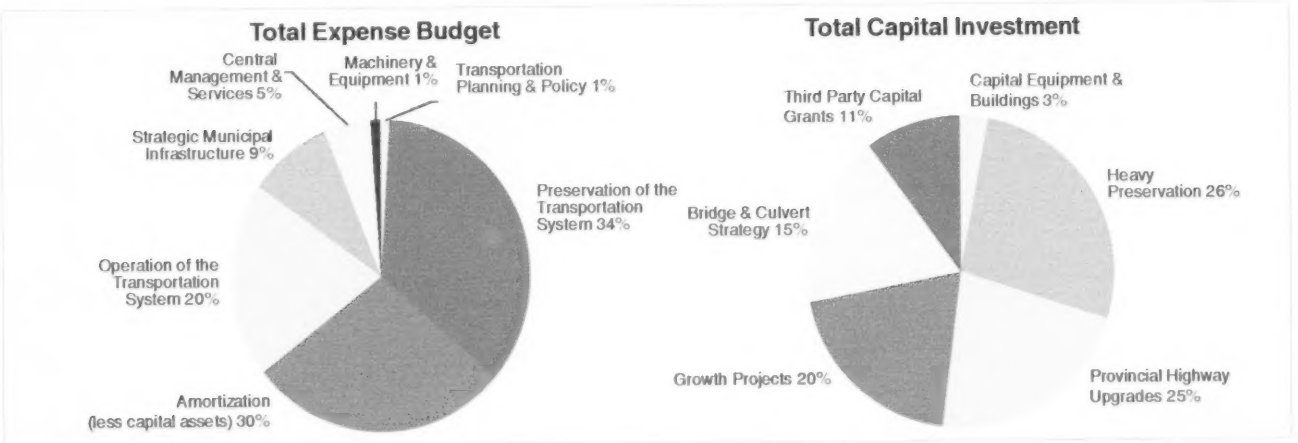

Total Expense Budget
Central Management & Services 5%
Machinery & Equipment 1%
Transportation Planning & Policy 1%
Strategic Municipal Infrastructure 9%
Preservation of the Transportation System 34%
Operation of the Transportation System 20%
Amortization (less capital assets) 30%
Total Capital Investment
Third Party Capital Grants 11%
Capital Equipment & Buildings 3%
Heavy Preservation 26%
Bridge & Culvert Strategy 15%
Growth Projects 20%
Provincial Highway Upgrades 25%

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan, David Buckley, Canoeing, MacFarlane River

Highlights

The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure has a total budget of $576.0 million including a transportation infrastructure capital investment of $280.8 million. The 2013-14 MHI budget allows the Ministry to respond to the growth plan through continuing to deliver projects that support current and future growth while reducing the infrastructure deficit.

- The Ministry will continue to preserve and improve the condition of the provincial highway system through investments including:
  - $141.7 million for preventative maintenance on provincial highways and bridges; and
  - $86.3 million for Heavy Preservation which involves repaving of at least 280 km of highways.
- $81.8 million will be invested in the rural provincial highway system for highway upgrades and improved access and safety.
- $63.6 million for major projects supporting the Growth Plan, including:
  - Commencing construction of the Estevan Truck Bypass;
  - Commencing a series of new passing lanes on Hwy 10 between Balgonie and Fort Qu'Appelle;
  - Continued work on the West Regina Bypass and the new overpass, connecting the Global Transportation Hub to the Trans Canada Highway; and,
  - Starting the due diligence and developing the business case for a major P3 initiative at Regina that would include a new South Bypass, three overpasses at bedroom communities east of Regina and completing the West Bypass from Dewdney Avenue to Hwy 11.
- In its continuing effort to address the infrastructure deficit, the Ministry will invest $49.1 million in bridges and culverts; this includes $14.4 million for the replacing of the St. Louis Bridge.
- The Ministry will invest $25.5 million through the Municipal Roads for the Economy Program that will enhance or preserve municipal transportation infrastructure.
- The Urban Highway Connector Program will invest $7.9 million towards capital projects and operations and maintenance to improve the safe and efficient movement of people and goods by enhancing traffic flow through urban municipalities on urban highway connectors.

For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at www.highways.gov.sk.ca for more information on the Ministry's programs and services.

Front Page Photo Credits

Canola and flax fields	*Biking, Narrow Hills Provincial Park*	*Over the Hill Orchards*	*Saskatchewan Legislative Building*
Photographer, Charles Melnick	*Greg Huszar Photographry*	*Greg Huszar Photographry*	*Greg Huszar Photographry*